DAWN

METRO South

KARACHI Thursday, November 6, 2025

KARACHI

Sunset	05:49pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow)	06:42am

NEXT 24 HRS

Minimum	17°C
Maximum	33°C
Humidity	32%
Outlook	Sunny

AFC president looking towards promising days for football in Pakistan

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Celebrating interfaith harmony at Guru Nanak's 556th birth anniversary

By Shazia Hasan

KARACHI: Like the Sikh community worldwide, Baba Guru Nanak's 556th birth anniversary was also celebrated in Pakistan, including the metropolis, on Wednesday.

Here at the Sikh Gurdwara, the Guru Nanak Darbar at the Shri Swaminarayan Temple at Lighthouse, Sikhs observed three days of prayer and meditation on the annual festival.

With the biggest gathering held at Nankana Sahib in Punjab, the Guru Nanak Darbar in Karachi became the site of the second biggest congregation, including women, children, and the elderly, according to Sardar Ramesh Singh Khalsa, the Patron-in-Chief of the Pakistan Sikh Council.

"Those who could not travel from here to Nankana Sahib came here," Sardar Ramesh told *Dawn*.

He also said that the Sikh community is not alone in celebrating Guru Nanak's birth anniversary. "There are also devotees from the Hindu community, mostly Sindhi, who are Baba's followers," he said.

Throughout the three days, the devotees were also offered langar or free food which included mouth-watering vegetarian dishes, lentils and Parshada, which is flat bread, along with an assortment of sweetmeats.

There was the Nagar Kirtan, or processional singing of holy hymns, and the reading of scriptures from the Guru Granth Sahib, including the Shri Akhand Path, with the final session of prayers taking place after midnight on Wednesday, precisely at 1:35am on Thursday.

The final prayers, held late at night, especially

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SIKH and Hindu women and children turn out in huge numbers for special prayers on the occasion of the 556th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak at Karachi's Guru Nanak Darbar Gurdwara on Wednesday night.— Shakil Adil / White Star

Another plea for suspension of e-ticketing system lands in SHC

• New system implemented without ensuring road infrastructure, vehicle ownership verification mechanism and installation of proper speed limit signs, JI leaders say in petition • Blocking of CNICs, suspension of driving licences over non-payment termed 'punishment without due process'

By Ishaq Tanoli

KARACHI: One more petition against the recently introduced faceless e-ticketing system was filed in the Sindh High Court on Wednesday, seeking temporarily suspension of issuance and recovery of heavy penalties.

Earlier, the Markazi Muslim League and a citizen moved the SHC against heavy traffic fines imposed under the e-ticketing system.

City chief of the JI Monem Zafar Khan, Leader of the Opposition in the City Council Advocate Saifuddin and party's lone lawmaker in the Sindh Assembly Muhammad Farooq filed the petition.

Petitioners' counsel Usman Farooq stated that the AI-based e-challan system was implemented in Karachi without ensuring necessary road infrastructure, vehicle ownership verification mechanism and installation of proper speed limit and other essential traffic signboards.

Citing the chief secretary, home secretary, excise and taxation department, inspector general of Sindh police and DIG-traffic as respondents, he submitted that they were aggrieved by the arbitrary notification imposing the AI-based e-challan system with exorbitant and discriminatory fines as the impugned system operated through CCTV and AI-enabled cameras, automatically detecting alleged traffic violations and issuing e-challans to the registered owners of the vehicles.

They also argued that coercive measures were being taken as a drastic increase in fines, blocking of computerised national identity cards (CNICs), suspension of driving licences and impounding of vehicles over non-payment amount to punishment without due process of law.

The petitioners further submitted that a large number of vehicles continue to operate without formal transfer of ownership mainly due to alleged corrupt procedures in the excise and taxation department discouraging timely transfer of ownership.

They submitted that the thoroughfares in the city were in deplorable condition as vehicles cannot be driven smoothly, forcing commuters to take alternative or even wrong routes due to ongoing construction works along University Road, Karimabad, New Karachi, Jahangir Road and various other parts of the metropolis.

The JI leaders also stated that fines being imposed under the impugned system were significantly higher than other provinces as for example exceeding speed limit carries a fine of Rs5,000 for motorcycles, Rs10,000 for cars/jeeps, Rs15,000 for LTVs and Rs20,000 for HTVs in Karachi. However, in Lahore, the same fine was Rs200 for motorcyclists, Rs5,000 for cars/jeeps and Rs750 for public transport vehicles.

They further maintained that the entire e-challan system appeared to be designed primarily for generating revenue through fines rather than ensuring traffic discipline or public safety.

They stated that residents of the city were already contributing around 50 per cent of the total revenue collected by the federal government and nearly 95pc by Sindh government, but they were being further burdened

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SHC restrains Nepra from taking 'coercive action' against KE

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court has restrained the federal government and National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) from taking coercive action against K-Electric regarding reduction in its multi-year tariff.

Last month, Nepra had reduced the average multi-year tariff of KE from Rs39.97/kWh, set by the regulator in May of this year, to Rs32.37/kWh. A two-judge bench headed by Justice Mohammad Iqbal Kalhoro issued notices to the ministry of energy, Nepra and others for Nov 19.

The KE filed a set of petitions challenging Nepra's recent decisions for reviewing and slashing the utility's multiyear tariff by about Rs7 per unit.

The petitioner's counsel argued that the KE was aggrieved by the decisions made by Nepra on Oct 20 on review applications filed by some individuals who were not even party in original proceedings before the authority.

The counsel argued that the regulatory authority had dismissed all review applications filed by individuals against its earlier order, but revised the tariff after taking suo motu notice of its earlier order and fixed the same at Rs32.37.

The lawyers said if the federal government notified the tariff in question, the KE would suffer colossal losses and would have to close its operation for a considerable time.

The counsel said that while taking the suo moto notice, Nepra did not put the petitioner on notice. Later, the KE filed an appeal against the impugned decision before the appellate tribunal of the regulatory authority, which at present was not functional.

After a preliminary hearing, the bench in its order stated, "Contentions raised require consideration, let notice be issued to the respondents as well as additional attorney general for 19.11.2025, meanwhile no coercive action shall be taken against petitioner in terms of impugned decision till next date of hearing."

Ex-Muttahida MPA booked for 'cyber terrorism'

KARACHI: Police on Wednesday registered a case against a former Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan lawmaker for allegedly issuing threats to dumpers' association president Liaquat Mehsud following a deadly accident.

The case was filed on behalf of the state through an assistant sub-inspector, who claimed he came across a video on social media in which a man, identified as Kamran Farooqi, could be heard saying that "he was fortunate to have left moments earlier, otherwise he would have been burning along with his vehicle due to the public's reaction".

The complainant claimed that Farooqi's comments referred to Mr Mehsud, who had arrived on the scene of the incident and was accompanied by his guards.

Two separate FIRs had been registered at the Garden police station under Section 10 (cyber terrorism) of the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act, 2016, and Section 506-B (criminal intimidation) of the Pakistan Penal Code.

Meanwhile, the police claimed to have arrested a private security guard of Mr Mehsud for allegedly opening fire on citizens following the accident.

—Staff Reporter

Traffic chaos grips city due to closure of roads near Numaish

By Imtiaz Ali

KARACHI: Commuters returning home from offices on Wednesday evening or heading towards the city centre suffered prolonged and agonising traffic jams, officials and citizens said.

Motorists were stuck in traffic for hours during peak time after the police closed the main thoroughfare at Numaish Chowrangi on M.A. Jinnah Road and adjoining routes for security reasons to protect religious gatherings.

Traffic police had announced several diversions following the closure of Numaish, which led to widespread traffic chaos and prompted Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah to take notice of the situation.

Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) Traffic Karachi Pir Mohammed Shah told *Dawn* that all traffic officers were present on the roads. He said that a "portion" of M.A. Jinnah Road was closed, which had caused the congestion.

He added that it was peak rush hour and a large number of vehicles were on the roads.

The city traffic police chief admitted that citizens were facing immense inconvenience due to the gridlock.

He explained that, due to security measures for the protection of religious gatherings, roads near Numaish Chowrangi had been closed and diversions provided to ensure "smooth" traffic flow.

Meanwhile, CM Shah took notice of the traffic congestion around Numaish Chowrangi and directed Addl. IGP Karachi Javed Alam Odho to ensure immediate restoration of traffic flow.

"Traffic police should be activated immediately to restore the traffic flow," the chief minister said, while also seeking a report on the situation.

The CM warned officers of strict action if traffic flow was not restored.

Sharjeel defends heavy traffic fines

KARACHI: Reaffirming the Sindh government's firm stance on enforcing strict traffic rules through e-challans, Senior Sindh Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon said on Wednesday that vehicles deemed unfit for driving would be confiscated in accordance with the law.

Replying to questions at a press conference, he said that the provincial government was not intimidated by anyone, but committed to enforce the law, adding that the governments were accountable for upholding the law without fear or favouritism.

He said that the increase in fines aimed to strictly enforce traffic regulations.

He said that each province had its own legislative authority, and consequently, vehicles deemed unfit for driving would face confiscation as per the applicable laws in Sindh.

He described the decision as "bitter but necessary" and said that it would ultimately save lives by compelling people to follow traffic laws.

He said that difficult decisions were often unpopular, but they were made to improve public welfare and maintain discipline. —By Tahir Siddiqui

'Bare necessities': Rano takes C-130 ride to rehab facility

Team breathes a sigh of relief as Rano falls asleep mid-air

By Faiza Ilyas

KARACHI: Rano completed her journey to freedom on Wednesday, when she was moved out from the barren environment of the Karachi zoo — ending her captivity of almost a decade — and shifted to a bear rehabilitation centre in Islamabad in a swift and smooth operation that brought together experts representing the provincial wildlife department, Islamabad Wildlife Management Board (IWMB) and the Pakistan Air Force.

The mission was undertaken on the orders of the Sindh High Court, which recently took notice of Rano's plight in captivity on a petition and ordered her immediate relocation to the IWMB's bear rehab.

Sources said the operation for Rano's relocation started late last night when the wildlife team reached the Karachi zoo and found Rano "very cooperative".

The team decided not to sedate Rano, considering it too risky, and keep her engaged during the journey by feeding her.

"As soon as we called her, she came out of her resting room, entered the transport crate and quickly started eating the food placed there," a member of the IWMB team shared in a social media post.

Later, the sources said, the team — Sindh Wildlife Conservator Javed Ahmed Mahar, IWMB officials Sana Raja, Abbas and Anees, Dr Zulfiqar Haider and Dr Shalla Hayat representing the livestock department, Dr Amir Ismail and Abida Raees of Karachi zoo, wildlife official Mumtaz Soomro, committee members Mahera Omar and Yusra Askari — accompanied Rano to the PAF Faisal Base where a C-130 aircraft along with a designated staff was ready for take-off to Islamabad.

"As soon as the flight took off around 8.30am, Rano fell asleep and woke up only after landing, much to the relief of the entire team worried about her safety during the air travel," said Sindh Wildlife Conservator Javed Ahmed Mahar, head of the committee set up by the government to ensure Rano's safe relocation.

According to Mr Mahar, Rano is currently at the rehab's quarantine facility where she will stay for a few days.

"Rano is expected to stay at the rehab for at least six months because snowfall has started in her natural range (Gilgit-Baltistan) and it's not feasible to move her there right now," he explained, while expressing confidence in the IWMB team's professionalism in taking good care of Rano.

It might be recalled that the SHC has ordered the KMC to relocate brown bear Rano, a critically endangered species in zoo captivity since 2017, to a rehab managed by the IWMB within two days.

The SHC also ruled that the transfer of the female Himalayan bear must take place through air cargo under the supervision of a senior official of the wildlife department and directed the KMC to extend cooperation and ensure the shifting.

The orders came on a petition raising concern over Rano's condition.

RANO at the rehab facility in Islamabad.—Dawn